REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In the office action, claims 14-16 were initially rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by McElroy (US Patent 4393474.

Claim 14 Issues

The rejection of claim 14 is respectfully traversed. Claim 14 recites a MACRO that is "embedded within" the standard cell array. As noted in the specification, embedding a MACRO in a standard cell array presents difficulties to designers, especially when the MACRO contains cells of different sizes. Thus, these difficulties are encountered when the MACRO is actually embedded within the standard cell array.

The reference cited by the office action does not dispose a MACRO within the standard cell array. Rather, McElroy uses a system in which EPROM cells are placed along the periphery of the standard cell array. However, these EPROM cells are not actually embedded within the standard cell array. Rather, they are left on the outside of the standard cell array.

Thus, the McElroy reference does not teach each and every element of claim 14. Therefore, it does not anticipate claim 14 under 35 USC §102. Consequently, it is believed that claim 14 is in condition for allowance and it is respectfully requested that it be allowed at the examiner's earliest convenience.

Claim 15 Issues

Claim 15 has been amended to clarify that the MACRO is embedded within the standard cell array. For the same reasons that claim 14 is allowable, claim 15 is allowable, as well.

Claim 16 Issues

Like claim 14, claim 16 also recites that the MACRO is embedded within the standard cell array. The McElroy reference does not teach a MACRO embedded within the standard cell array. Therefore, for the same reasons noted in regard to claim 14, claim 16 is allowable, as well.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 303-571-4000.

Respectfully submitted,

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